

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USSS-00 SY-10 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1570

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 900

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN MR SG

SUBJECT: ARREST OF COUNTERFEITERS IN NOUAKCHOTT: DOLLARS

ALLEGEDLY INCLUDED IN PRODUCTION.

1. ACTING FONMIN OULD BRAHN SEPT 28 RELAYED FOLLOWING INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY MAURITANIAN POLICE AND INTERPOL FOLLOWING ARRESTS OF TWO ALLEGED COUNTERFEITERS IN NOUAKCHOTT LAST WEEK.

2. INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED WERE CARRYING FAKE GAMBIAN PASSPORTS. THEIR ACTUAL NATIONALITY AS YET UNDETERMINED. DUO HAD IN THEIR POSSESSION NOTES IN DENOMINATION 200 OUGUIYAS AND CFA FRANCS OF VARIOUS VALUES. THEY CLAIMED TO HAVE MANUFACTURED BOTH CATEGORIES. SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT OF COUNTRY FOR LAB ANALYSIS.

3. DUO STATED TO INTERROGATORS THEY MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL RING WHICH PRODUCING FAKE DOLLARS, FRENCH FRANCS, SWISS FRANCS, ITALIAN LIRA, AND MOROCCAN DIRHAMS. THEY CLAIMED DOLS 15 MILLION ALREADY PRODUCED AND HIDDEN IN DAKAR AT HOME OF ONE EL-HADJ BELLA.

4. BELLA, ACCORDING SENEGALESE SECURITY, IS SENEGALESE NATIONAL AND WELL KNOWN CRIMINAL. SENEGALESE HAVE RAIDED HIS HOME, FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF COUNTERFEITING EQUIPMENT OR FINISHED BILLS. THEY ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR BELLA.

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5. DUO AVERRED THAT ONE KEBEN'DIOUGA, PROMINENT

WEALTHY SENEGALESE, IS BRAINS BEHIND SENEGALESE CELL OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL OPERATION. KEBEN'DIOUGA WELL KNOWN TO SENEGALESE SECURITY WHO STATE HE HAS NO CRIMINAL RECORD. DAKAR AUTHORITIES ARE QUIETLY INVESTIGATING ALLEGATION HIS COMPLICITY.

6. INTERROGATION OF ARRESTEES IN NOUAKCHOTT CONTINUES, LED BY TWO INTERPOL REPS. MINISTER PROMISED TRANSMIT FURTHER DETAILS AS DEVELOPED AND TO FURNISH ALLEGEDLY FAKE DOLLARS IF FOUND. NOTED HE PERSONALLY NOT CONVINCED THAT SOPHISTICATED RING ACTUALLY EXISTS BUT SUSPECTS STRONGLY THAT THOSE IN NOUAKCHOTT PRISON MAY HAVE JUST BEEN TRYING OUT LOCAL CONFIDENCE GAME.

7. THANKED MINISTER FOR ABOVE AND EMPHASIZED OUR INTEREST IN RECEIVING ASAP ANY EXAMPLES OF DOLLARS ALLEGEDLY MANUFACTURED BY RING.
MURPHY

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